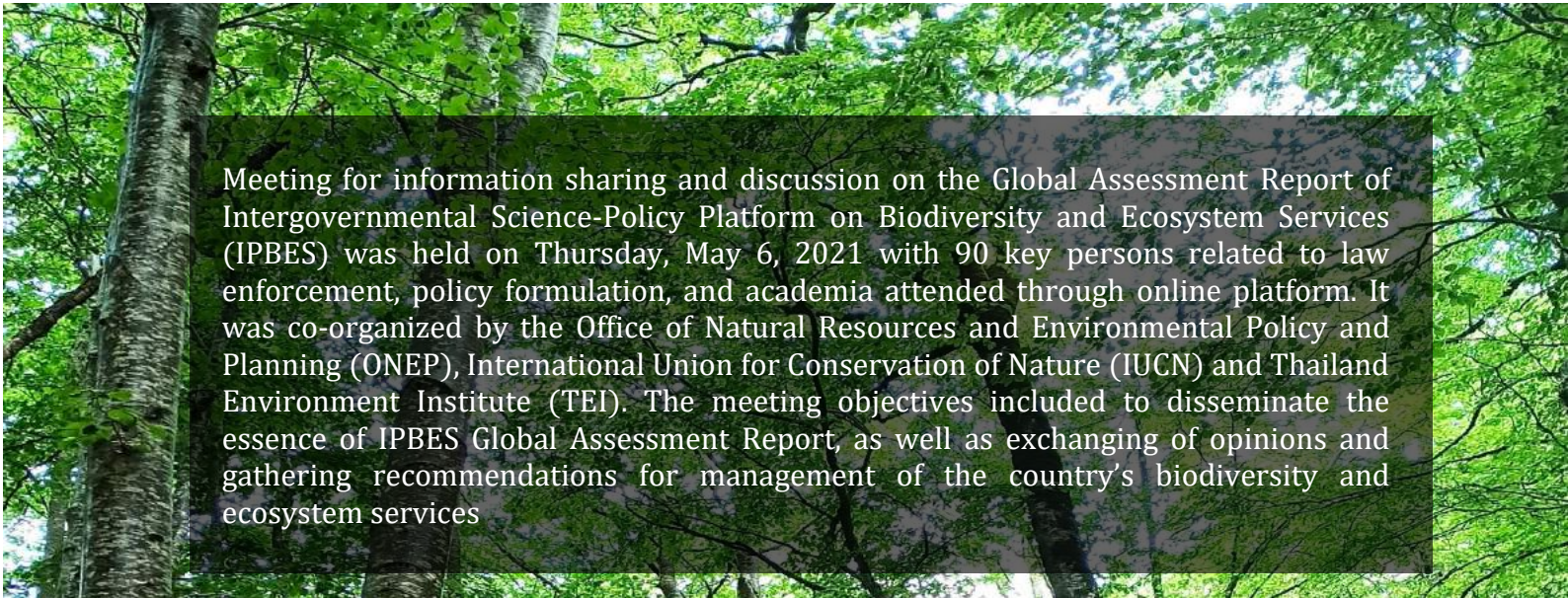


Meeting Summary

IPBES Global Report

Information sharing and discussion





Meeting for information sharing and discussion on the Global Assessment Report of Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) was held on Thursday, May 6, 2021 with 90 key persons related to law enforcement, policy formulation, and academia attended through online platform. It was co-organized by the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Thailand Environment Institute (TEI). The meeting objectives included to disseminate the essence of IPBES Global Assessment Report, as well as exchanging of opinions and gathering recommendations for management of the country's biodiversity and ecosystem services

The essence of global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services

The Global Assessment Report is produced by IPBES, an independent international focused on managing academic knowledge related to biodiversity and ecosystem services. There are over 130 member countries around the world, with adhering to concise evidence which will be used by countries for their policy formulations or to decide research frameworks as well as implementing relevant works. There are 150 professionals selected from around the world together with 350 contributing authors, with analyzation of more than 15,000 published papers through the period of 3 years.

This Report has been presented in the 7th IPBES Conference in Paris, France in 2019. The key issues can be summarized below.

- It points out what services human beings get from nature, in addition to productivity and various uses. But currently the nature and the benefits human gain are deteriorating throughout the world like never before.
- It highlights the importance of ecosystems' connectivity which leads to holistically management or comprehensiveness of the impacts. This is the key message of this report to encourage the readers to take actions.
- It has identified the direct and indirect drivers of each ecosystem. The direct drivers are land/sea use change, direct exploitation, climate change, pollution, invasive alien species, etc. While indirect drivers are demographic and sociocultural, economic and technological, institutions and governance, and conflicts and epidemics.
- It reflects the impacts of climate change e.g., wastewater and waste on species and biodiversity.
- It reaffirms the apparent changes to marine ecosystem resulted from unsustainable fishing which over catching more than natural reproduction as well as the catching that are not for human but for animal feeds that may lead to extinction.

In addition, the report recommends key solutions in term of the transformation change for changing behaviors and practices at all levels of the society, as well as engaging people and organizations in these changes to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Case study on adaptation of forestry and wildlife laws in Thailand

Due to protected area declarations which lead to overlapping of agricultural and settlement areas of the people in several parts of the country, at the same time more encroachments also occurred due to increased populations and the need for arable lands. With other contributing factors, such as unclear boundaries, has caused some conflicts and distrusts between the people and the state resulted to lower support of the people around the protected areas in conservation.

Currently, there has been some amendments in policies and laws which designate relevant agencies to survey the agricultural and community settlement areas which are existed in the protected areas and found that there are around 4,000 communities. The amended laws also assign the authorities to implement projects on conservation and protection of natural resources with pilot areas to resolve land issues, and to develop clear land use plan that integrate the coexistence of people's livelihoods together with plants and wildlife. However, there are several challenges found in some areas to determine long term solutions and foster people and considering sustainably maintaining of biodiversity.

Case study on policy implementation to reduce marine plastic debris in Thailand

From the situation in production and use of plastics that even there has been built cooperation between various sectors to reduce and stop using plastic bag with handle in shops. But the COVID-19 pandemic leads to increasing online shopping as well as medical supplies such as gloves and surgical masks. Most of plastic waste are from a short-term utilization plastics and lack of proper management, which is causing many plastic wastes around the beaches, coral reefs, and in the seas. Records showed that single use plastics are mostly found, as well as food and beverage containers and packaging, and fishing gears. These debris affect marine lives in various forms, also damaging the coral reefs and marine habitats, while also contaminating the ecosystems with micro plastics.

Plastic debris has become common issue in national policy and public discussions. There are several plans on these however clear measures to drive policy are still limited. One example is integration of circular economy concept with clear involvement of the private sector; however, it is still under pilot operations and focuses primarily on waste collection rather than reducing plastic waste. And there are still lack of information and knowledge on micro plastics as well as reducing impacts on biodiversity.



Feedbacks and adaptation of IPBES Global Assessment Report

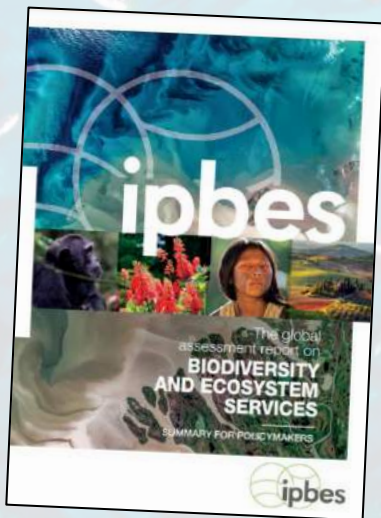
The feedbacks from the meeting are in line with the report essence as the followings.

- ❁ **Driving with transformation change;** and development towards sustainability, as the main issue to move together with all relevant sector in order to create change.
- ❁ **Coexistence between people and nature in a complementary manner;** this needs awareness raising in the people to realize the importance of biodiversity, the relationship of living organisms in a complementary manner and protection of one another.
- ❁ **Raise awareness and respect of local knowledge and wisdom;** including the innovations, practices, and the awareness of cultural values of the specific localizations, in order to revive and further development of the local wisdom as well as linking to conservation of natural resources.
- ❁ **Participation of stakeholders, indigenous people and local communities;** in the equitable management of natural resources and biodiversity towards sustainability.
- ❁ **Fair and equitable benefit sharing;** through enhancing participation of all sectors, together with decentralization to local areas to be able to equitable manage and utilize natural resources, and to reduce conflicts as well as ensure sustainability.
- ❁ **Integration;** it is a need for Thailand to review the existing mechanisms and tools for cross-ministry cooperation to close the gaps and ensure transformation change for driving actions and key relevant laws and regulations.

Policy recommendations for biodiversity management and utilization in Thailand

- 1) **Local decentralization**; on the management of natural resources and environment through strengthen capacity of local administrative organizations and using ecological spatial plan as a tool to plan for ecosystem and biodiversity management.
- 2) **Enhance effective land management**; especially through enforcing section 10 of the National Land Policy Committee which indicates communal land management system to grant land rights to a group of people not other forms, and encourages further innovations for land tenure rights through this committee mechanism.
- 3) **Resolve the unsustainable fishing practices**; through supporting and enhancing capability of the Fishery Department to be more effective to respond and manage impacts from unsustainable fishery that affects marine mammals.
- 4) **Considering amendment of marine law**; from currently limiting to 12 nautical miles to cover up to 200 nautical miles for Thailand which would increase protection of marine resources as well as better management of marine debris.
- 5) **Improving system for granting permission in the protected areas**; to reduce impacts from businesses/large industrial activities with better procedures and measures to protect biodiversity, and to develop the permission granting process that is fair and equitable in order to better involve the private sector.
- 6) **Creating incentive for the private sector**; to involve more in the conservation of natural areas and biodiversity either through voluntary or compulsory mechanisms, and to change from mono-agriculture in the forest areas to grow more trees. These can be done through crowd funding and enhance carbon sink which can provide multiple benefits to people, forest, land, and climate change mitigation at the same time.
- 7) **Integration of legislative tool**; according to the Act on Draft and Legal Achievement Evaluation indicates that the laws that have been enforced more than 5 years need to be reviewed for their achievement and applicability. There are number of forest laws that will reach the 5 years period in 2024, therefore preparation is needed for the review and legislative integration including to formulate the new laws proposed in the National Reform Plan.





This report represents a critical assessment, the first in almost 15 years (since the release of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment in 2005) and the first ever carried out by an intergovernmental body, of the status and trends of the natural world, the social implications of these trends, their direct and indirect causes, and, importantly, the actions that can still be taken to ensure a better future for all. These complex links have been assessed using a simple, yet very inclusive framework that should resonate with a wide range of stakeholders, since it recognizes diverse world views, values and knowledge systems.